REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 3, 2003. Claims 1-4, 7-11, 17-19 and 21-28 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 7-9, 17-19, 21-24, 27 and 28 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 1, 7, 17-19, 21-24, 27 and 28 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 18, 19, and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,142 (*Kosaka*). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kosaka* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,644,404 (*Hashimoto et al.*), and claim 17 was rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over over Japanese Patent No. 9-18498 (hereinafter referred to as *Kosaka '498*, using U.S. Patent No. 6,119,142, issued to *Kosaka* as an English translation), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,552,901 (*Kikuchi et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 7, 17-19, 21-24, 27, and 28 in terms that more clearly define what Applicant regards as his invention. In particular, Applicant has amended these claims to recite still more clearly transmitting the document itself to the data processing terminal in the notification. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in claim 1 is to a data communication system. The data communication system includes a connector, an operation

input unit, a data transmitter, and a notification unit. The connector connects a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals to the data communication system. The operation input unit receives a manual designation from an operator. The data transmitter transmits a document, based on the designation input by the operation input unit, to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector. The notification unit, notifies a data processing terminal, via the connector, where the notification includes transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, and the document transmitted by the data transmitter. The notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system, and also notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the document transmission upon completion of the document transmission performed by the data transmitter. In the case where user information is input by the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, the notification unit notifies a data processing terminal corresponding to the user information of the transmission result information.

One important feature of claim 1 is that the data communication system notifies a data processing terminal, via the connector, where the notification includes transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, and the document transmitted by the data transmitter.

Kosaka, as discussed previously, relates to a data communication apparatus that manages information indicating that data has reached its destination. *Kosaka* discloses notifying the transmission-management information to the client in steps S40 and S42 of Figure 8. However, the transmission-management information, as depicted in Figure 3, does not contain the transmitted document that was transmitted in step S38. Figure 3 of *Kosaka* merely depicts, among other things, that the transmission-management information contains the document identifier F1 and a document attribute field F5. The document attribute field F5 denotes an attribute of the transmission document, i.e., information on whether the transmission document has been transmitted as a facsimile document data (pixel data) or code data such as printer description language, is set. Further, if the transmission document was transmitted as a facsimile document data, an attribute of the data indicative of resolution is set; while if the transmission document was transmitted as code data, the type of the code data is set. However, nothing has been found in *Kosaka* that would teach or suggest notifying a data processing terminal, via the connector, where the notification includes transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, and the document transmitted by the data transmitter, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is believed clearly allowable over *Kosaka*.

Independent claims 7, 18, 19, 21-24, 27, and 28 include the similar feature discussed above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, claims 7, 18, 19, 21-24, 27, and 28 are also believed to be patentable for reasons substantially similar as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in claim 17 is to a method of controlling a system that includes a data communication system for performing document communication with a destination and a data processing terminal for controlling the data communication system. The data communication system is connected to the data processing terminal via a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals. At the data communication system, the method includes inputting a designation manually entered by an operator using an operation input unit, designating an ID based on the designation manually inputted using the operation input unit, performing document communication with an external data communication terminal in accordance with a designation inputted using the operation input unit, and notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, where the notification includes communication result information representing the document communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation, and the document transmitted by the data communication system.

At the data processing terminal side of claim 17, the method includes instructing the data communication system to communicate with a destination, receiving communication result information notified by the data communication system in the notifying step, and independently storing the communication result information related to the document communication based on an instruction in the instructing step and communication result information received from the data communication system in the receiving step. The notifying step notifies the data processing terminal of the communication result information related to the document communication upon completion of the document transmission performed by the data

communication system, and includes notifying, in the case where user information is inputted using the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, a data processing terminal corresponding to the user information of the communication result information.

One important feature of claim 17 is notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, where the notification includes communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation, and the document transmitted by the data communication.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or suggest the invention as defined by independent claim 17, particularly with respect to notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, where the notification includes communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation, and the document transmitted by the data communication.

As discussed above, *Kosaka '498* (using *Kosaka* as an English translation) discloses notifying the transmission-management information to the client in steps S40 and S42 of Figure 8. However, the transmission-management information, as depicted in Figure 3, does not contain the transmitted document that was transmitted in step S38. Nothing has been found in *Kosaka* that would teach or suggest notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data

processing terminal, where the notification includes communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation, and the document transmitted by the data communication.

For at least this reason, independent claim 17 is believed clearly patentable over *Kosaka '498*, taken alone.

Kikuchi et al. is cited in the Office Action as remedying *Kosaka '498's* deficiency of failing to teach of independently storing the communication result information related to the data communication based on an instruction in the instruction step and communication result information received from the data communication system in the receiving step. However, nothing has been found in *Kikuchi et al.* that would teach or suggest notifying the data processing terminal corresponding to the designated ID, via a connector connecting the data communication system and the data processing terminal, where the notification includes communication result information representing the data communication with the external data communication terminal based on the inputted designation and the document transmitted by the data communication, as recited in claim 17.

Accordingly, claim 17 is believed clearly allowable over *Kosaka '498* and *Kikuchi et al.*, taken separately or in any proper combination.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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